

## ABSTRACT

1 In a node failure detection technique at least one  
2 supervisory data processing node periodically transmits a  
3 receipt acknowledge data packet to each other data processing  
4 node. The supervisory data processing node determines a data  
5 processing node has failed upon failure to receive a return  
6 acknowledge data packet. This acknowledge data packet  
7 preferably includes health data concerning its current health  
8 operating status. The supervisory data processing node sends  
9 a reset data packet to any failed data processing node  
10 determined. If the reset does not return the data processing  
11 node to normal operation, then routing data at neighboring  
12 data processing nodes is altered to route data packets around  
13 the failed node.